



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

SWISS AUTHORITIES ACT ON ICE LEADS, EXECUTE 400 SEARCH WARRANTS IN MASSIVE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PROBE

At least 10 individuals arrested; Eight suspected of child molestation

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Acting on information provided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Swiss authorities have in recent days executed 400 search warrants, examined more than 100,000 photo and video files and arrested at least 10 individuals in a major operation targeting child pornography. Eight of the 10 arrested in Switzerland are also suspected of child molestation.

The Swiss Federal Office of Police, in conjunction with all 26 Cantonal police agencies throughout the country and the Liechtenstein Landespolizei were acting on leads provided by ICE's Attaché in Bern, Switzerland, as part of a massive investigation under ICE's Operation Predator. Operation Predator draws on ICE's unique investigative and enforcement authorities to safeguard children from foreign national pedophiles, human traffickers, international sex tourists, and individuals who trade in child pornography. ICE has arrested more than 4,000 individuals in the U.S. since the program began on July 9, 2003.

The enforcement action in Switzerland grew out of an ongoing probe into an Internet billing company in Minsk, Belarus. In January 2004, the company was charged with money laundering as well as providing credit card billing services for 50 child pornography websites worldwide and operating child porn websites on its own. Three officers of the company have been arrested in Europe and two officers of an affiliated company in Florida have pleaded guilty.

Having dismantled the leadership of the enterprise, ICE agents in domestic ICE offices and 52 Attaché offices worldwide turned their focus to those who purchased child porn subscriptions from these sites in the U.S. and abroad. Nearly 900 individuals have been arrested worldwide in the investigation. ICE has arrested 140 in the U.S. and foreign law enforcement, acting on ICE leads, have arrested 760 individuals in Denmark, Finland, France, Hong Kong, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Members of the public wishing to report suspicious activity may contact ICE at 1-866-DHS-2ICE or Operation.Predator@dhs.gov. ICE's non-governmental partners include World Vision at http://www.worldvision.org/worldvision/wvusufso.nsf/stable/globalissues_stp and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at <http://www.missingkids.org>. Additional information about Operation Predator is posted at www.ice.gov.

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